

**METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PREFILLING A
BUFFER IN STREAMING DATA APPLICATIONS**

ABSTRACT:

[00111] A method of processing a stream of encoded units of data samples includes the step of calculating a sample advantage using timing information embedded in selected ones of the encoded units, the sample advantage representing a time difference in number of samples between the presentation of a reference sample and the availability of the reference sample. A number of phantom samples substantially equal to the number of samples represented by the calculated sample advantage are queued and then output from the queue at a selected rate. Substantially simultaneous with the outputting of the phantom samples from the queue, at least some data samples of at least one encoded unit are decoded and queued behind the phantom samples.

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